

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIM

This listing of the claim will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claim in the application:

Listing of Claim

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An automatic banding method carried out in an automatic banding packing machine in which at a step of comprising the steps of:

feeding a top portion of a band to a band guide arch by band feeding means; ~~and~~
~~then~~ causing a right presser member, a left presser member and a middle presser member, each of which are is arranged ~~straight~~ below a slide table, to approach or separate from the slide table in a predetermined timing caused by a rotation of a cam shaft,

wherein the tip portion of the band is clamped by the right presser member,
a rear end side of the band is pulled back by band pull-back means ~~in this state~~,
and

the band is tightened by band tightening means, and
the band is lifted by the middle presser member and is cut by a cutter, and
a heater is inserted to freely appear on a superposing portion of the band, thereby
melting a surface of the superposing portion of the band; and

further pressing the rear end side of the band by the middle presser member,
wherein when the rear end side of the band is to be pulled back by the band pull-back means, an amount of the pull-back is detected by detecting means, and

~~it is decided that~~ wherein idle banding of the band is carried out when a length of the band thus pulled back is greater than a preset length of the pull-back of the band corresponding to a minimum packed article which can be packed, and

the rotation of the cam shaft is temporarily stopped based on a signal,
whereby the timing of the pressing to be carried out by the middle presser member, which is operated after melting the superposing portion of the band by means of the heater, is delayed in a predetermined time.